Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) - A custom rule system for creating custom rules, said custom rule system comprising in combination:

a processor,

a memory and a display both operatively coupled to said processor;

a plurality of <u>operand and operation</u> rule steps stored within said memory;

means for ~~graphically depicting~~ <u>displaying to a user graphical depictions of</u> said plurality of <u>operand and operation</u> rule steps stored within said memory as an arrangement on said display <u>such that said arrangement is comprised of a plurality of individual graphical operand and operation depictions each corresponding to at least one of said operand and operation rule steps</u>;

means for ~~selecting at least one of said graphically depicted rule steps from said arrangement for visually creating a custom rule on said display~~ <u>a user to select and interconnect at least two of said plurality of individual graphical operand and operation depictions for creating a custom rule comprised of operand and operation rule steps corresponding to the user selection of the at least two of said plurality of individual graphical operand and operation depictions</u>.

Claim 2 (currently amended) -   The system of claim 1 ~~wherein said memory is a database wherein said rule steps are individually stored as executable code~~ <u>further including a means for displaying a rules window on said display and wherein said means for the user to select and interconnect at least two of said plurality of individual graphical operand and operation</u>

depictions includes means for a user to select, drag, and drop the at least two of said plurality of individual graphical operand and operation depictions from said arrangement to said rules window and interconnect the at least two of said plurality of individual graphical operand and operation depictions in the rule window for creating said custom rule.

Claim 3 (currently amended) -   The system of claim 2 wherein said memory is a database wherein said operand and operation rule steps are individually stored as executable code and wherein said created custom rule is employed for decision making in an expert system by accessing said executable code for each said rule step that is both graphically depicted and selected creating said custom rule on said display.

Claim 4 (currently amended) -   A custom rule system for creating custom rules, said system comprising in combination:

a database comprised of a multiplicity of operand and operation rule steps, each said rule step having specific executable code associated therewith;

a computer operatively coupled to said database and including a display for graphically depicting said rule steps in an array and for providing a graphical window displaying to a user graphical depictions of said multiplicity of operand and operation rule steps stored within said database as an array of a multiplicity of individual graphical operand and operation depictions displayed within a first window on said display and each corresponding to at least one of said multiplicity of operand and operation rule steps;

means for displaying a rules window on said display;

means for interacting a user to interface with said array displayed in said first window to select and place a plurality of said multiplicity of individual graphical operand and

operation depictions ~~said graphically depicted rule steps~~ from said array to said ~~graphical~~ <u>rules</u> window for graphical display; <u>and</u>

means for interconnecting said ~~graphically displayed rule steps within said graphical window~~ <u>plurality of said multiplicity of individual graphical operand and operation depictions displayed in said rules window</u> for creating a custom rule.

Claim 5 (currently amended) - The system of claim 4 further including a reference stored within said database for referencing said specific executable code associated with each ~~rule step that is graphically displayed within said graphical window~~ <u>operand and operation rule step that corresponds to each of said plurality of said multiplicity of individual graphical operand and operation depictions displayed in said rules window</u>.

Claim 6 (original) - The system of claim 5 further including a processing means for processing said created custom rule by processing said referenced executable code.

Claim 7 (original) - The system of claim 6 further including means for providing a decision based upon said processing of said created custom rule.

Claim 8 (original) - The system of claim 7 further including means for routing said decision based upon said processing of said created custom rule to appropriate personal.

Claim 9 (currently amended) - A custom rule system for creating custom rules, said system comprising in combination:

~~an arrangement of graphically depicted rule steps, each said graphically depicted rule step having assembled code associated therewith and stored within a database;~~

<u>a database comprised of a multiplicity of operand and operation rule steps, each said rule step having specific executable code associated therewith;</u>

a computer operatively coupled to said database and including a display for displaying to a user graphical depictions of said multiplicity of operand and operation rule steps stored within said database as an arrangement of a multiplicity of individual graphical operand and operation depictions displayed in a first window on said display and each corresponding to at least one of said multiplicity of operand and operation rule steps;

means for displaying a rules window on said display;

means for individually ~~selecting said graphically depicted rules steps from said arrangement and disposing said selected rules in a graphical window such that said selected rules are arranged in a substantially columnar format~~ selecting, dragging, and dropping a plurality of said multiplicity of individual graphical operand and operation depictions from said first window to said rules window;

means for graphically interconnecting said individual graphical operand and operation depictions ~~selected rule steps disposed~~ in said ~~graphical~~ rules window, and

means for storing said graphically interconnected selected individual graphical operand and operation depictions ~~rule steps disposed~~ in said ~~graphical~~ rules window as a custom rule to be employed for decision making in an expert system.

Claim 10 (currently amended) -   The system of claim 4 further including: ~~A custom rule system, comprising in combination:~~

~~a database;~~

~~a plurality of rule steps stored within said database;~~

a plurality of tables stored within said database, each of said plurality of tables having at least one record including at least one field;

a plurality of step references stored within at least one of said plurality of tables, each of said plurality of step references associated with at least one of said <u>multiplicity of operand and operation</u> rule steps stored within said database;

a plurality of rule references stored within at least one of said plurality of tables, each of said plurality of rule references associated with at least one of said rule step references stored within said database, and

wherein all of the step references that are associated with the same rule reference define each individual rule step that is included in an individual, user created custom rule.

Claim 11 (currently amended) -   <u>The system of claim 4 further including:</u> A custom rule system, comprising in combination:

a database;

a plurality of rule steps stored within said database as executable code;

a plurality of tables stored within said database, each having at least one record containing fields;

a plurality of said fields including step references to individual <u>operand and operation</u> rule steps stored within said database for defining a custom rule.

Claim 12 (currently amended) -   <u>The system of claim 1</u> The rule based system of claim 11 further including an extraction module for extracting information engendered from sensors and a processor operatively coupled to <u>both</u> said extraction module and said database for processing said extracted information according to said defined <u>user created</u> custom rule.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended) - <u>The system of claim 1 wherein the at least two of</u> <u>said plurality of individual graphical operand and operation depictions include inputs, outputs, or</u> <u>both inputs and outputs and wherein the system further includes means for connecting outputs to</u> <u>inputs for creating said custom rule.</u> ~~A custom rule system for creating custom rules on a~~ ~~computer having a display, said system comprising in combination:~~

~~an arrangement of graphically depicted rule steps displayed on said display and~~ ~~having inputs, outputs, or both inputs and outputs;~~

~~means for connecting outputs of said graphically depicted rule steps to inputs of~~ ~~said graphically depicted rule steps for visually creating a custom rule.~~

Claim 15 (currently amended) - A method for creating custom rules, the steps including:

storing individual <u>operand and operation</u> rule steps comprised of executable code within a database coupled to a computer;

depicting said <u>operand and operation</u> rules steps on a display of said computer as a graphical arrangement of <u>operand and operation</u> icons;

creating a <u>user defined</u> custom rule by interfacing with said graphical arrangement of <u>operand and operation</u> icons <u>for selecting and placing a plurality of said operand and operation</u> <u>icons from said graphical arrangement to a graphical window on said display and interconnecting</u> <u>said icons placed within said graphical window.</u>

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended) -   A method for creating custom rules, the steps including:

selecting an asset for a custom rule;

defining input value steps to be used in the custom rule; each said input value step including at least one output;

depicting said input value steps in a graphical window of a graphical user interface of a computer;

depicting a matrix of graphically depicted <u>operand and operation</u> rule steps on said graphical user interface, each said graphically depicted <u>operand and operation</u> rule step having assembled rule step code associated therewith and stored within a database coupled to said computer;

selecting <u>by a user an operand</u> a result step from said matrix of graphically depicted <u>operand and operation</u> rule steps and placing said <u>operand</u> result step into said graphical window, said <u>operand</u> result step including at least one input;

defining a result that will be created when an input to said selected <u>operand</u> result step is true;

selecting <u>by a user</u> at least one operation step from said matrix of graphically depicted rule steps and placing said at least one operation step into said graphical window at a location interposed between said input value steps and said <u>operand</u> result step, said at least one operation step having at least one input and at least one output;

connecting <u>by a user</u> said at least one output of each of said input value steps to said at least one input of said operation step, and

connecting <u>by a user</u> said at least one output of said operation step to said at least one input of said result step for creating a custom rule.

Claim 19 (currently amended) - <u>The system of claim 1 further including:</u> A custom rule system, comprising in combination:

a database;

a multiplicity of text identifier numbers stored within said database;

means for storing a table comprised of text associated with said multiplicity of text identifier numbers;

means for returning text from said table to said system for each of said multiplicity of text identifier numbers stored within said database upon demand such that said database can be written and stored as said multiplicity of text identifier numbers.

Claim 20 (currently amended) - The custom rule system of claim 19 wherein said table can be comprised of text in any language.